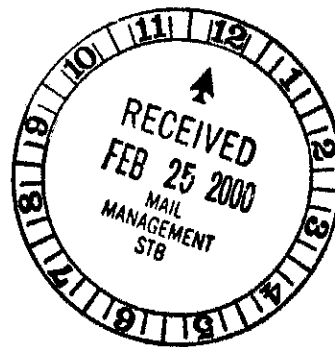


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PROPANE GAS
ASSOCIATION OF CANADA INC.
ASSOCIATION CANADIENNE DU
GAZ PROPANE INC.



February 24, 2000

Vernon A. Williams, Secretary
Surface Transportation Board
1925 K Street N. W.
Washington D.C. 2043-0001

Dear Sir:

**RE: Canadian National Railway Company, Burlington Northern Santa Fe Corporation –
Common Control (Ex Parte 582)**

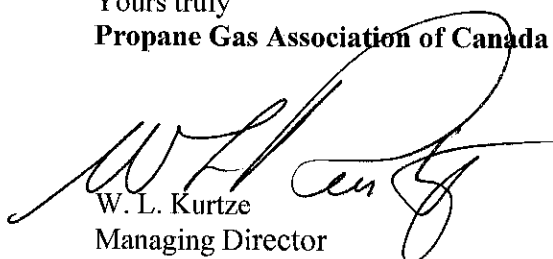
The Propane Gas Association of Canada Inc. is a Canadian trade association that serves to represent the interests of its 160 member companies including 18 propane producer members, 49 retail marketers and 20 wholesale marketers. The vast majority of these companies are significant users of rail service in both Canada and the United States.

We have three concerns with respect to the March 8, 2000 hearing in Ex Parte 582 on the merger application by CN and the Burlington Northern/Santa Fe Railroads. The first concern relates to whether the hearing will proceed. We understand that there is a significant lobbying effort, particularly by other railroads, to stop the matter from proceeding at this time. We find it difficult to accept that this is in the public interest and recommend that the matter be heard as scheduled.

We believe that the proposed merger should be judged on its own merits. The Surface Transportation Board has an established, comprehensive process to evaluate these types of transactions and to protect the public interest. We submit the CN/BNSF combination can and should be fairly assessed according to that process and in isolation from other similar mergers whether successful or unsuccessful.

The Association also requests that the Board, in hearing the control application, give due consideration to the importance of ensuring that the level the service offered in any post-merger situation at least be equal to that available today. Certain of our members are concerned that the prices for and availability of services will deteriorate significantly in a post merger situation. To alleviate such concerns, we respectfully request that the Board give serious consideration to what assurances are necessary to prevent this and then afford the applicants the opportunity to satisfy the Board that those assurances will be met.

Yours truly
Propane Gas Association of Canada Inc.


W. L. Kurtze
Managing Director

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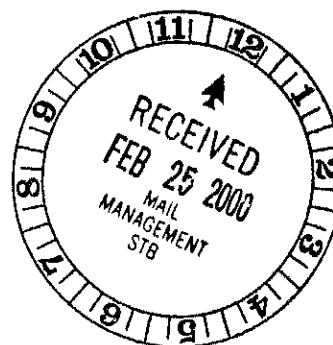
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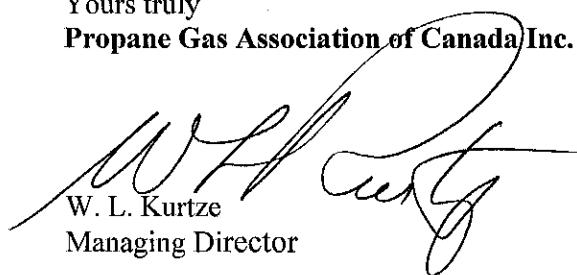
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